

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please delete the previous Abstract and replace with the new Abstract provided herewith.

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen, comprising at least one poly- $\alpha$ -olefin which is a synthetic oil having a viscosity of 200 mPa·s or more at 40°C, wherein the total amount of poly- $\alpha$ -olefins is 80 mass% or more of all components, the viscosity at 40°C is from 1,000 to 30,000 mPa·s, and the shear-thinning index at a shear rate of 1 to 10/s is 0.95 or more.
2. (Original) The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 1, wherein the viscosity of the follower at 40°C is from 1,500 to 15,000 mPa·s.
3. (Original) The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 2, wherein the viscosity of the follower at 40°C is from 3,000 to 10,000 mPa·s.
4. (Previously presented) The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shear-thinning index of the follower at a shear rate of 1 to 10/s is 0.97 or more.
5. (Currently amended) The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 1, ~~comprising at least one poly- $\alpha$ -olefin which is a synthetic oil having a viscosity of 200 mPa·s or more at 40°C,~~ wherein the total amount of poly- $\alpha$ -olefins is 98 mass% or more of all components.
6. (Currently amended) The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 1, ~~comprising~~ wherein said poly- $\alpha$ -olefin comprises at least one poly- $\alpha$ -olefin which

is a synthetic oil having a viscosity of 1,000 mPa·s or more at 40°C, wherein the total amount of said poly- $\alpha$ -olefin[[s]] having a viscosity of 1,000 mPa·s or more at 40°C is 90 mass% or more of all components.

7. (Currently amended) The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 1, ~~comprising~~ wherein said poly- $\alpha$ -olefin comprises at least one poly- $\alpha$ -olefin which is a synthetic oil having a viscosity of 5,000 mPa·s or more at 40°C, wherein the total amount of said poly- $\alpha$ -olefin[[s]] having a viscosity of 5,000 mPa·s or more at 40°C is 50 mass% or more of all components.

8. (Currently amended) The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 7, ~~comprising~~ wherein said poly- $\alpha$ -olefin comprises at least one poly- $\alpha$ -olefin which is a synthetic oil having a viscosity of 5,000 mPa·s or more at 40°C, wherein the total amount of said poly- $\alpha$ -olefin[[s]] having a viscosity of 5,000 mPa·s or more at 40°C is 60 mass% or more of all components.

9. (Currently amended) The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 8, ~~comprising~~ wherein said poly- $\alpha$ -olefin comprises at least one poly- $\alpha$ -olefin which is a synthetic oil having a viscosity of 5,000 mPa·s or more at 40°C, wherein the total amount of said poly- $\alpha$ -olefin[[s]] having a viscosity of 1,000 mPa·s or more at 40°C is 70 mass% or more of all components.

10. (Previously presented) The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 1, wherein the poly- $\alpha$ -olefin is mainly a polymer of an  $\alpha$ -olefin having a carbon number of 8 to 20.

11. (Previously presented) The follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 1, wherein the poly- $\alpha$ -olefin is mainly a polymer of an  $\alpha$ -olefin having a carbon number of 8 to 12.

12. (Previously presented) A nonaqueous ballpoint pen comprising a nonaqueous ballpoint pen ink and the follower for a nonaqueous ballpoint pen claimed in claim 1, and using an ink reservoir tube having an inner diameter of 2.8 mm or less, the nonaqueous

ballpoint pen ink being an ink in which a solvent comprising an alcohol and/or glycol monoether having a vapor pressure of 0.2 to 50 mmHg at 20°C occupies from 10 to 100 mass% of the ink solvent.

13. (Currently amended) The nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 12, wherein said solvent contains water in an amount of ~~the concentration of water contained in the nonaqueous ballpoint pen ink is~~ 5 mass% or less of the solvent.

14. (Original) The nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 12, wherein the nonaqueous ballpoint pen ink contains substantially no water.

15. (Currently amended) The nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 12 ~~any one of claims 12 to 14~~, wherein the nonaqueous ballpoint pen ink is an ink in which the solvent comprising an alcohol and/or glycol monoether of 0.2 to 50 mmHg occupies from 50 to 100 mass% of the ink solvent.

16. (Currently amended) The nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 12 ~~any one of claims 12 to 15~~, wherein the inner diameter of the ink reservoir tube is from 1.5 to 2.7 mm.

17. (Original) The nonaqueous ballpoint pen as claimed in claim 16, wherein the inner diameter of the ink reservoir tube is from 1.6 to 2.6 mm.